

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 34 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown below:

Please add new claims 35-38.

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method for the production of L-amino acids using coryneform bacteria comprising:

fermenting coryneform bacteria which produce a desired L-amino acid comprising an overexpressed polynucleotide sigC wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said overexpression is achieved by increasing the copy number of said polynucleotide or by operably linking said polynucleotide to a promoter.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, further comprising:
isolating the L-amino acid.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the L amino acid is lysine.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method for the production of L-amino acids using coryneform bacteria comprising:

fermenting coryneform bacteria which produce a desired L-amino acid comprising an overexpressed polynucleotide sigC wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide

comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said overexpression is achieved by increasing the copy number of said polynucleotide.

Claims 19-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein increasing the copy number is achieved by transforming said coryneform bacteria with a vector comprising said polynucleotide.

Claims 22-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method according to claim 14, wherein the bacteria being fermented comprise, at the same time, one or more genes which are overexpressed; wherein the one or more genes is/are selected from the group consisting of:

- a gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase,
- a gene coding for glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase,
- a gene coding for triosephosphate isomerase,
- a gene coding for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase,
- a gene coding for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase,
- a gene coding for pyruvate carboxylase,
- a gene coding for malate-quinone-oxidoreductase,
- a gene coding for aspartate kinase,
- a gene hom coding for homoserine dehydrogenase,
- a gene ilvA coding for threonine dehydratase,
- a gene coding for acetohydroxy acid synthase,
- a gene coding for dihydroxy acid dehydratase, and

a the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* gene coding for a Zwa1 protein.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Process according to claim 14, wherein the bacteria being fermented comprise, at the same time, one or more genes which are eliminated; wherein the genes are selected from the group consisting of:

a gene coding for phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase,
a gene coding for glucose-6-phosphate isomerase, and
a gene coding for pyruvate oxidase.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14 wherein the bacteria is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method according to claim 21, wherein said vector is pEC-XK99EsigCb2ex contained in *Escherichia coli* strain of DH5mcr/pEC-XK99EsigCb2ex deposited under DSM 14375.

Claim 29 (previously presented): *Corynebacterium glutamicum* DSM5715/pEC-XK99E deposited under DSM 13455.

Claim 30-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18 wherein said polynucleotide comprises nucleotides 300 to 878 of SEQ ID:1.

Claim 34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (new): The method according to claim 18, further comprising:
isolating the L-amino acid.

Claim 36 (new): The method according to claim 18 wherein the L amino acid is lysine.

Claim 37 (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein the bacteria being fermented comprise, at the same time, one or more genes which are overexpressed; wherein the one or more genes is/are selected from the group consisting of:

- a gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase,
- a gene coding for glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase,
- a gene coding for triosephosphate isomerase,
- a gene coding for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase,
- a gene coding for glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase,
- a gene coding for pyruvate carboxylase,
- a gene coding for malate-quinone-oxidoreductase,
- a gene coding for aspartate kinase,
- a gene hom coding for homoserine dehydrogenase,
- a gene ilvA coding for threonine dehydratase,
- a gene coding for acetohydroxy acid synthase,
- a gene coding for dihydroxy acid dehydratase, and
- the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* gene coding for a Zwa1 protein.

Claim 38 (new): Process according to claim 18, wherein the bacteria being fermented comprise, at the same time, one or more genes which are eliminated; wherein the genes are selected from the group consisting of:

- a gene coding for phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase,

a gene coding for glucose-6-phosphate isomerase, and
a gene coding for pyruvate oxidase.